

# Come, Lord Jesus

A Service of the Word for 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday  
in Advent

*We say together the words printed in bold.*

## The Gathering

Hymn: Come long expected Jesus.....

### *The Greeting*

The Lord be with you

**All and also with you.**

Watch at all times, praying for the strength to stand with confidence  
before the Son of Man.

*Luke 21.36*

### *Prayer of Preparation*

**All** Almighty God,  
to whom all hearts are open,  
all desires known,  
and from whom no secrets are hidden:  
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts  
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,  
that we may perfectly love you,  
and worthily magnify your holy name;  
through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

### *Prayers of Penitence*

Christ the Light of the world has come to dispel the darkness of our hearts. In his light let us examine ourselves and confess our sins.

Lord, we are sorry for the days we hardly speak with you at all

Lord have mercy

**Lord have mercy**

Lord, we are sorry for the times we refuse to follow in your way.

Christ have mercy

**Christ have mercy.**

Lord, we are sorry for the opportunities we miss for serving others in humility.

Lord have mercy

**Lord have mercy.**

Absolution:

May the Father of all mercies  
cleanse *us* from *our* sins,  
and restore *us* in his image  
to the praise and glory of his name,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Advent candle is lit.

Collect :

Almighty God,  
give us grace to cast away the works of darkness  
and to put on the armour of light,  
now in the time of this mortal life,  
in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility;  
that on the last day,  
when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge the living and  
the dead,

we may rise to the life immortal;  
through him who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

### *Psalm 80.1-8*

Listen to us, O Shepherd of Israel; hear us, leader of your flock.  
Seated on your throne above the winged creatures, reveal yourself to the tribes of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh. Show us your strength; come and save us! Bring us back, O God! Show us your mercy, and we will be saved! How much longer, LORD God Almighty, will you be angry with your people's prayers? You have given us sorrow to eat, a large cup of tears to drink. You let the surrounding nations fight over our land; our enemies insult us. Bring us back, Almighty God! Show us your mercy, and we will be saved! You brought a grapevine out of Egypt; you drove out other nations and planted it in their land.

**All:** Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. As it was from the beginning is now and shall be for ever Amen.

**Hymn: Waken O sleeper, wake and rise .....**

### *Gospel Reading: Mark 13:24-37*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

**All: Glory to you O Lord**

"In the days after that time of trouble the sun will grow dark, the moon will no longer shine, the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers in space will be driven from their courses. Then the Son of Man will appear, coming in the clouds with great power and glory. He will send the angels out to the four corners of the earth to gather God's chosen people from one end of the world to the other. "Let the fig tree teach you a lesson. When its branches become green and tender and it starts putting out leaves, you know that summer is near. In the same way, when you see these things happening, you will know that the time is near, ready to begin.<sup>a</sup> Remember that all these things will happen before the people now living have all died. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away. No one knows, however, when that day or hour will come—neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son; only the

Father knows. Be on watch, be alert, for you do not know when the time will come. It will be like a man who goes away from home on a trip and leaves his servants in charge, after giving to each one his own work to do and after telling the doorkeeper to keep watch. Watch, then, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming—it might be in the evening or at midnight or before dawn or at sunrise. If he comes suddenly, he must not find you asleep. What I say to you, then, I say to all: Watch!"

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**All Praise to you, O Christ.**

## Talk

### *Affirmation of Faith*

We say together in faith

**All Holy, holy, holy  
is the Lord God almighty,  
who was, and is, and is to come.**

We believe in God the Father, who created all things:

**All for by his will they were created  
and have their being.**

We believe in God the Son,

who was slain:

**All for with his blood,  
he purchased us for God,  
from every tribe and language,  
from every people and nation.**

We believe in God the Holy Spirit:

**All the Spirit and the Bride say, 'Come!'  
Even so come, Lord Jesus!  
Amen.**

## *Prayers of Intercession*

As we begin a new year in the life of the Church, let us pray together to the God of our making.

Holy God, just as we are we come to you, and ask for your kingdom to come to us in this place; increase our faith and our love for you, so that we may be come the lights in darkness that we are called to be.

Silence

O God, keep us awake to you

**And alive to your call.**

Holy God, the signs in our world of hate, distrust and greed are shown to us clearly every day. May we see with your eyes the signs of hope and victory, the opportunities for loving service, for encouragement, reassurance and thanksgiving.

Silence

O God, keep us awake to you

**And alive to your call.**

Holy God, we bring to you in love those who are weary with ongoing pain and weakness, those who are frail with age and all who are vulnerable.

Pour your living into their lives and protect them from all that is harmful.

Silence

O God, keep us awake to you

**And alive to your call.**

Holy God, we pray for all who have come to the end of their earthly life, and for those whose lives feel empty without them. Give comfort to the bereaved, and everlasting peace to all who rest in your love.

Silence

O God, keep us awake to you

**And alive to your call.**

Holy God, your faithful care has brought us safely to this moment, we  
thank you for your constant love, forgiveness, strength and protection.

Lord of the Church

**All hear our prayer,  
and make us one in heart and mind  
to serve you with joy for ever.**

Amen.

### *The Lord's Prayer*

Let us pray for the coming of God's kingdom  
in the words our Saviour taught us.

**All Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and for ever.**

Amen.

### *The Peace*

In the tender mercy of our God,  
the dayspring from on high shall break upon us,  
to give light to those who dwell in darkness

and in the shadow of death,  
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.  
The peace of the Lord be always with you  
**All and also with you.**

**Hymn – long ago, prophets knew.....**

### Blessing

The love of the Lord Jesus  
draw *you* to himself,  
the power of the Lord Jesus  
strengthen *you* in his service,  
the joy of the Lord Jesus fill *your* hearts;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among *you* and remain with *you* always.

**All Amen.**

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